

PREVAILING WIND

August 2005 The Official Newspaper of the 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Michigan Volume 10 Issue 7



photos by Master Sgt. Clancey Pence



photo by Master Sgt. Glenn Wilkewitz

ORE you ready?

Scenes from the April trip to Alpena serve to remind members participating in the August ORE that this is the final dress rehearsal prior to the ORI in October. Use this last opportunity to check with your UDM for current Inspector General requirements and to review your Personal Readiness Folders (PRF). Be alert to force protection conditions changes, which will begin at Selfridge during Phase I, first day of the exercise, at each en route stop on base and adhere to ORE Parking Plan (see page 8). Come prepared (see pages 4 and 5) and use the buddy system. Finally, remember to maintain a positive, "can-do" attitude. As Henry Ford said, "Whether you think you can or can't, you're usually right."



Commander's Column

By Col. (Dr.) Brad Eisenbrey
127th Medical Group



Every commander places a high value on ensuring the safety of the members of his or her unit. The measures we put into place are not perfect, but they are always the result of our best efforts. One of the health measures we have is immunizations. Unfortunately, immunizations have become controversial in the media despite overwhelming support from the medical and scientific communities. One of the most controversial is back.

The United States Air Force has resumed the use of the anthrax vaccine for protection of Air Force personnel deploying to high threat locations. The program is reinstated under an Emergency Use Authorization from the US Federal Food and Drug Administration issued in January, 2005, and modified under a Federal District Court order in April, 2005.

There is a significant change to the program, as currently approved: the member has the option to refuse the vaccine with no disciplinary or adverse personnel action. The right to refuse the anthrax vaccine is now official policy of the Air Force.

There is no change in the currently available anthrax vaccine. The FDA has approved the use of the vaccine under the EUA for

protection against inhalational anthrax.

There is no other approved vaccine for protection against anthrax and treatment of anthrax infection is still difficult even in the best-equipped intensive care unit in a major teaching hospital. Inhaling spores (like those from the attack through the US Postal Service) kills 99% of unprotected, unvaccinated and untreated people.

You can refuse the anthrax vaccine. Remember, however, that this is a force protection measure, much like your helmet and gas mask. If you are incapacitated due to an anthrax infection, the ability of the other members of your unit to complete the mission will be compromised. Anthrax spores are very stable, resist heat, sunlight, gamma irradiation and cleaning agents like bleach. They are easily weaponized and hard to detect. By the time you realize you are sick, there is very little chance of successfully treating the anthrax pneumonia and surviving without serious disability.

I started the anthrax vaccination series when it was first offered and have gotten and will continue to get boosters when eligible. I encourage you to participate in this program.



...From the Chief's Desk

By Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Orlandino
171st Aerial Port Flight



I have thought about writing an article for the Chief's Desk for a long time and every time I think I have a topic to discuss another one will jump into my head and I have to rethink it all over again. This time my article was half way to completion and it happened again.

Some 127th Wing members are guilty of what I want to discuss. They may feel that time is on their side and that they can make time stand still. Of course, the reality is time waits for no one and before they know it they WILL have missed an opportunity.

I am speaking of not completing Professional Military Education. Probably at the time it didn't seem important, or maybe some members just didn't have the time to sit down and commit to doing their PME. I have even heard from some NCOs, "What does it matter, I am not in the slot and I will never be able to get promoted to the next grade anyway." These might be good reasons in those members minds, but the bottom line is one never knows what will be waiting for them in the future.

With the pending conversions here at Selfridge due to the BRAC suggestions, there will be a large number of personnel changing career fields on both sides of the house if and when we convert to the different weapons systems. Senior NCOs and NCOs will be retiring, making room for personnel to get promoted to the next higher grade. When this happens you don't want to have a missed opportunity by not having your PME completed.

Not being eligible for promotion because you haven't com-

pleted your PME also means a loss of money.

A Senior Airman not completing the Airman Leadership course with six years time-in-grade makes \$261.04 for the UTA weekend, as opposed to a Staff Sergeant's \$294.04 per weekend. This is a difference of \$33 per month. If the Senior Airman is activated his monthly rate is \$1,957.80 and the Staff Sergeant's pay is \$2,205.30 per month. This is a difference of \$247.50 per month. If you have a family, that is a lot of milk and bread for the children.

I have seen how important it becomes to members of my own organization when they finally have completed the PME course they needed to get promoted and have to wait for the paper work to go through. Waiting the extra month or two is frustrating knowing that you have all the requirements completed but now you have to wait until the paper work is finished. If only they would have completed their PME course in a timely manner life would be good.

I also know that sometimes an individual may not have any control over their getting promoted, even if they have their PME completed, and there isn't a vacant position for them to go into. When this happens the frustration level increases because we have no control; however when a position does become available that member will be ready.

Life isn't always fair when it comes to promotions, but why should we increase our frustration levels by not being prepared. If you are enrolled in a PME course, get cranking on it and complete it. If you need to enroll, then enroll. This is your future, your money, and your pride. Don't waste time on a missed opportunity. Crack those books!



**The Official
Newspaper
of the 127th Wing**

*A proud military organization
characterized by excellence and
integrity in the fulfillment of our duties
to our nation, community and to one
another.*

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For story or photograph submissions, ideas or comments for the paper, e-mail the

Prevailing Wind staff at:

prevailingwind@miself.ang.af.mil

Deadline for Sep:

Saturday, August 13

SCHROEDER NEW FRG FAMILY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The 127th Wing has a new full-time Family Readiness Group Family Program Coordinator. Debby Schroeder is the spouse of a wing member and is also a traditional guard member of the 127th Wing who works as the First Sergeant for the Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Schroeder says that family readiness is very important to her and should be a priority for all wing members and their families. "I know what it feels like to have a loved one deployed, as well as being deployed myself and needing to know that my family is taken care of."

She was hired in April as the full-time coordinator of the program and is ready to give it a facelift. Because of her unique experience on "both sides of the fence", Schroeder hopes to be able to provide support differently than the FRG has in the past because of her insight.

The FRG is currently sending out newcomer packages to new wing members; gives new-born care packages and blankets to members' children; works closely with the community to support our families; briefs members prior to deployment; stays in contact with family members during deployments and more. Schroeder is working hard to provide family outings like the July invitation to

recently returned or deploying Airlift Group members and their families to spend a day at the Sterling Inn's waterpark.



Photo by John Swanson

Debby Schroeder

Families are an integral part of the Air National Guard and assuring their welfare during deployments and training exercises will have a positive contributing force on the service member's esprit de corps and morale. "Families" does not just pertain to a married couple; a family is any service member's family, single or married.

For more information about the Family Readiness Group members of the wing and their families are invited to attend the group's regular meetings held on Saturdays of drill weekends, 10 a.m. at Luftberry Hall. Childcare is provided for these meetings for those who call in advance. There will not be a meeting in August due to the ORE. Questions can be address to Debby Schroeder at 307-5583.

REPORT CIVILIAN EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Guard and reserve members are required to register information about their civilian employer and job skills. The goal of the CEI program is to populate and maintain an employer database with 95 percent accuracy of the Selected Reserve and 75 percent accuracy of the Individual Ready Reserve. Michigan Air National Guard has not met the 75% goal.

The Department of Defense is required to: give consideration to civilian employment necessary to maintain national health, safety and interest when considering members for recall; ensure that members with critical civilian skills are not retained in numbers beyond those needed for those skills; and, inform employers and reservists of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed

Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

All members of the 127th Wing, including those whose full time employer is the Michigan National Guard, need to register their civilian employer information at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>. Members need to register even if unemployed.

This is a permanent program and must be updated each time the employer information changes.

Implementation of the CEI program culminates a yearlong effort to establish a Department of Defense system to capture and understand who employs the 1.2 million members of the Armed Forces Reserve.

FINAL PRACTICE FOR OUTSTANDING OCTOBER

By Col. Steve Krajnik

Mission Support Group Commander

For the 127th Wing members in Air Combat Command, it's dress rehearsal time! The August Operational Readiness Exercise is upon us and, on the one hand, it's our last "practice" as a wing to prepare for our October Operational Readiness Inspection. On the other hand, it's a great stepping-off point to ensure an "excellent" or "outstanding" rating in the October ORI. It all depends on your point of view.

The wing is counting on each of us to be highly motivated, safe, focused and able to perform as a team. I want to go over some of the "basics" of taking an ORE and an ORI. As I prepared this column I paraphrased a lot from an excellent column in the ORI Edition of the "Thunderbumper" written by the 114th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Portice, and South Dakota Air National Guard State Command Chief Master Sgt. Randy Handel as they prepared for their own ORI. I also pulled from concepts and ideas from our own senior leaders in the 127th.

Attitude

This is one of the single most important aspects of the ORI and can have a positive (or negative) impact on the wing's overall grade. When Toledo took their ORI, they were upgraded from a "satisfactory" to an "excellent" as an overall wing grade based on the positive attitude displayed by their wing's members. Please carry a positive attitude into the August ORE and October ORI. Just think how often your own mood is affected by the moods of others.

- Greeting evaluators and/or inspectors with a smile and a "good day" could change their attitudes for the better and leave you or your section with a better mark.

- Be open to suggestion and comment--don't argue!

- Show a willingness to learn from the evaluators and make on-the-spot corrections if you are able.

As General Elliott wrote in the May 05 Commander's

Column, referencing the April ORE, "...you all approached this exercise with a positive "can-do" attitude, and attitude is important in achieving our goals". Let's continue to improve on that positive attitude for August and October. Working together as a Wing "Team" is key to this.

Safety

Safety of our people should always be the number one concern. Make it common practice to check yourself and your buddy on proper foot wear, eye and hearing protection, gloves, using your seatbelt, etc.

- Buddy, buddy, buddy. Don't go anywhere without one and help each other out always.

- Always use a guide when backing up any vehicle, any time.

- Drink plenty of water to stay properly hydrated and avoid heat stroke.

- When wearing your helmet, always ensure the chin strap is secure!

Always remember safety on and off duty and correct any safety concerns you see with any of your fellow members of the 127th Wing. Stay on the lookout at all times--safety is everyone's responsibility!

Military Bearing

Following all military customs and courtesies, on and off duty, is a show of respect and the IG/Exercise Evaluation Team will notice. First impressions set the stage for the entire inspection.

- Show proper respect to all inspection/evaluation team members.

- Salute all officers.

- Greet officer and enlisted members properly.

Uniform/Standards

Wear your uniform correctly whenever you have it on and wherever you are. Check your uniform. Is it worn out? Are there holes? Is it too faded? Does it need to be repaired or replaced? Are your boots polished, pants bloused and all pockets buttoned? Are you wearing all uniform items correctly and as intended?

- Ensure you are groomed properly.

- Make sure when you leave your work area that you are wearing the proper uniform with the proper headgear (no unit ball caps!)

- Wear only authorized sunglasses.

- When wearing the Chemical Warfare Defense Ensemble (CWDE), ensure all zippers and snaps are closed/snapped.

- Women: Ensure your hair is free of clips, pins, etc and is hanging freely before donning the protective mask (refer to Airman's Manual, page 154).

- Standardize tape size and marking procedures in accordance with 127th Wing



File photos



Standards as spelled out in the CE Readiness Newsletter "Marking your GCE" (refer to Intranet: 127 MSG/Civil Engineering/Readiness)

All Airmen are responsible for proper uniform wear and appearance. Make it your responsibility to help your fellow Airmen. We all need to put our best foot forward and leave no questions about our professional image. Again, first impressions are lasting.

Be Prepared

The following is a list of basic items that often get overlooked. Avoid an IG write-up by double-checking for the following prior to your Unit Assembly for Deployment. Ensure you have easy access to these items during the ORE/ORI:

- Airman's Manual
- Dog Tags (wear)
- Current Military ID Card
- Restricted Area Badge (if applicable)
- Military Driver's License
- Simulated Nerve Antidote Kit (issued in Alpena)
- Protective Mask Eyeglasses (issued in Alpena)
- Mask Inspection Card (in your mask carrier, signed/dated)
- Quantitative Fit Test certificate (copy in mask carrier)
- AF Form 623, Training Record (E6 and below)
- Personal Readiness Folder (PRF)

Also, ensure the following requirements are current before you deploy:

- VRed Data (DD93 Emergency Contact Data)
- Information Assurance Certificate
- AF Form 4005 Training Requirements
- Equipment checked and ready
- All Medical/Dental related issues

Important Items to Know and Understand

- Anything that is real world safety always comes first!
- Know the daily pass/duress words and Battle Staff

Directives!

- Report all suspicious activity.
- Know the zones and read the transition point information before you proceed from one zone to the next.
- Know the current MOPP level for the zone you are in or

are about to enter.

-Know the USAF Attack Warning Signals and respond accordingly!

-Know how to use M8 and M9 paper.

-Know the Rules of Engagement.

-Know how to use your Airman's Manual!

-Understand first aid and buddy care.

-Recognize if someone is missing, injured, or is acting suicidal and properly respond and report.

-If you are operating a vehicle or using equipment, know your responsibilities to properly protect

that vehicle or equipment to avoid chemical contamination.

We as a Wing cannot lose if each of us takes on the August ORE with the following:

- The "Right" Attitude
- The Best of our Ability
- Our Heads in the Game
- Operational Readiness Focus

Finally, let's take the ORE as if it is our ORI and we'll all be better for it come October. We've all been there, done that, now let's git-er-done!



Newcomers

Airman 1st Class Carla Benson



*Unit: 127th Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Detroit*

Tech. Sgt. Carl Berridge



*Unit: 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Upland, Pa.*

Airman 1st Class Misty Bice



*Unit: 171st Airlift Squadron
HomeTown: Madison Hts., Mich.*

Senior Airman Clinton Bigelow Sr.



*Unit: 127th Security Forces Squadron
HomeTown: Detroit*

Airman 1st Class Jason Bird



*Unit: 191st Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Harrison Twp., Mich.*

Staff Sgt. Adam Fick



*Unit: 191st
HomeTown: Bay City, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class John Furnas



*Unit: 191st Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Jackson, Mich.*

Staff Sgt. Curtis Gibson



*Unit: 127th Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Detroit*

Airman 1st Class Timothy Holmgren



*Unit: 127th Security Forces Squadron
HomeTown: Brownstown, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class Rob Kaarlela



*Unit: 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Milford, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class Justin Kindt



*Unit: 191st Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Flint, Mich.*

Staff Sgt. Harold Kowalski



*Unit: 127th Communications Squadron
HomeTown: New Haven, Mich.*

Newcomers

Airman 1st Class Ryan Leyman



Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Farmington Hills, Mich.

Senior Airman Michael Mader



Unit: 127th Civil Engineer Squadron
HomeTown: Chesterfield, Mich.

Staff Sgt. Kevin McInerney



Unit: 127th Mission Support Flight
HomeTown: Brant, Mich.

Airman 1st Class Akio Miller



Unit: 127th Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Pontiac, Mich.

Senior Airman John Partrich



Unit: 191st Aerial Port Flight
HomeTown: Livonia, Mich.

Staff Sgt. Marcel Prude



Unit: 127th Civil Engineer Squadron
HomeTown: Detroit

Senior Airman James Scott



Unit: 127th Services Flight
HomeTown: Detroit

Airman 1st Class Eric Snover



Unit: 127th Civil Engineer Squadron
HomeTown: Millington, Ohio

Senior Airman Tracey Thomas



Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Detroit

Airman 1st Class Daniel Vergun



Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Ypsilanti, Mich.

Senior Airman David Walden



Unit: 127th Maintenance Squadron
HomeTown: Warren, Mich.

Staff Sgt. Jamie Weasel



Unit: 127th Civil Engineer Squadron
HomeTown: Flint, Mich.

NEWS BRIEFS

2005 UTA DATES

Aug. 13-14 Sept. 10-11
Oct. 1-2 Nov. 5-6
Dec. 3-4

CORRECTION

"107th Fighter Squadron celebrates legacy", published in the July 2005 edition of the Prevailing Wind, stated that the squadron would be celebrating 88 years of flying service, but also said that the unit was formed in 1925. The unit was actually formed in 1917, however was not federally recognized until 1925.

BALL TO REMEMBER

This year's 127th Wing Ball will be another spectacular occasion for Detroit to include on its list of events, after the All-Star Game and before the 2006 Superbowl.

The annual event, this year sponsored by Wing Headquarters, will be held at the Renaissance Center Marriot Hotel ballroom on Saturday, November 5. The

Headquarters

127th Wing

29553 George Ave.

Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045-5029

evening begins at 6 p.m. with a social time and the Wing Outstanding Performers of the Year awards ceremony follows dinner, which will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 each. Members are encouraged to get their tickets prior to the October drill due to the Operational Readiness Inspection. Squadrons are competing to see which can sell the most tickets. For more ticket information, please see squadron First Sergeants.

The planning committee encourages those who have never attended a ball to come out and experience the event in this year's wonderful venue. The Renaissance Center is located on the Detroit River at the south end of Woodward Avenue. This year's event promises to be a "Ball to Remember."

LES HARD COPY INFO

Wing members may be getting their leave and earnings information on both the MyPay website and by a hard copy mailed to the home of record. The 127th Wing Finance office has recently been notified by ANG HQ/FM that all leave and earn-

ings statement hard copy mailings will be turned off in September. This means that to get current leave and earnings statements members will have to access the MyPay or the SmartDocs websites.

Take the time now to establish accounts with these sites so that no gap in information occurs. The 127th Wing Military Pay office no longer takes pay date inquiries from members as the MyPay and SmartDoc websites have been available for use for some time.

The websites to access personal pay and leave information are:
<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> or
<https://smartdocs.dfas.mil/smartdocs>

For more information contact the Pay Entitlements office at 307-5661.

AUGUST UTA PARKING

An ORE Parking Plan will be in effect during the August UTA to accommodate Phase I force protection condition upgrades. Members should look for information on where to park in unit newsletters prior to the UTA. Members can also contact their unit for this information.

First Class

